

Heber Valley Powwow

To Be Featured on KUTV

6-1-88

Heber City's first Powwow will be featured on the "Backroads" segment of "PM Magazine" Thursday on KUTV, Channel 2, at 6:30 p.m. Heber City Mayor Gordon Mendenhall and some of the Head Staff were interviewed for the program, and Indians who will be participating in the Powwow were filmed dancing. Some of the Powwow committee and other local people were invited to participate in a friendship dance and may also appear in the segment.

As many as 1,200 Indian dancers and drum groups from across the country are expected to begin arriving Thursday, to compete for the \$8,500 purse, according to Ken Davis and Howard Christiansen, the Heber coordinators on the Powwow committee.

They said a recent Powwow in Denver drew that many with an \$8,000 purse. They said the Grand Entry, when all the competitors dance into the arena and circle until everyone is participating, lasted for two and one half hours.

Indian dancers and drum groups travel on circuits, similar to rodeo

circuits, competing for prizes. Each competitor is accompanied by an entourage of as many as 100 supporters.

However, Powwows are primarily spiritual gatherings, where alcohol and drugs are forbidden.

In Heber, the Indians will set up camps at the Wasatch County Fairgrounds. Indian and non-Indian food will be available and Indian arts and crafts will be displayed and sold.

Traditionally, everyone brings their own chairs to a Powwow, both the Indians and the spectators. The front rows are reserved for competitors and their families. During the competition, the drum groups will line the arena and, according to custom, spectators will gather behind their favorite groups.

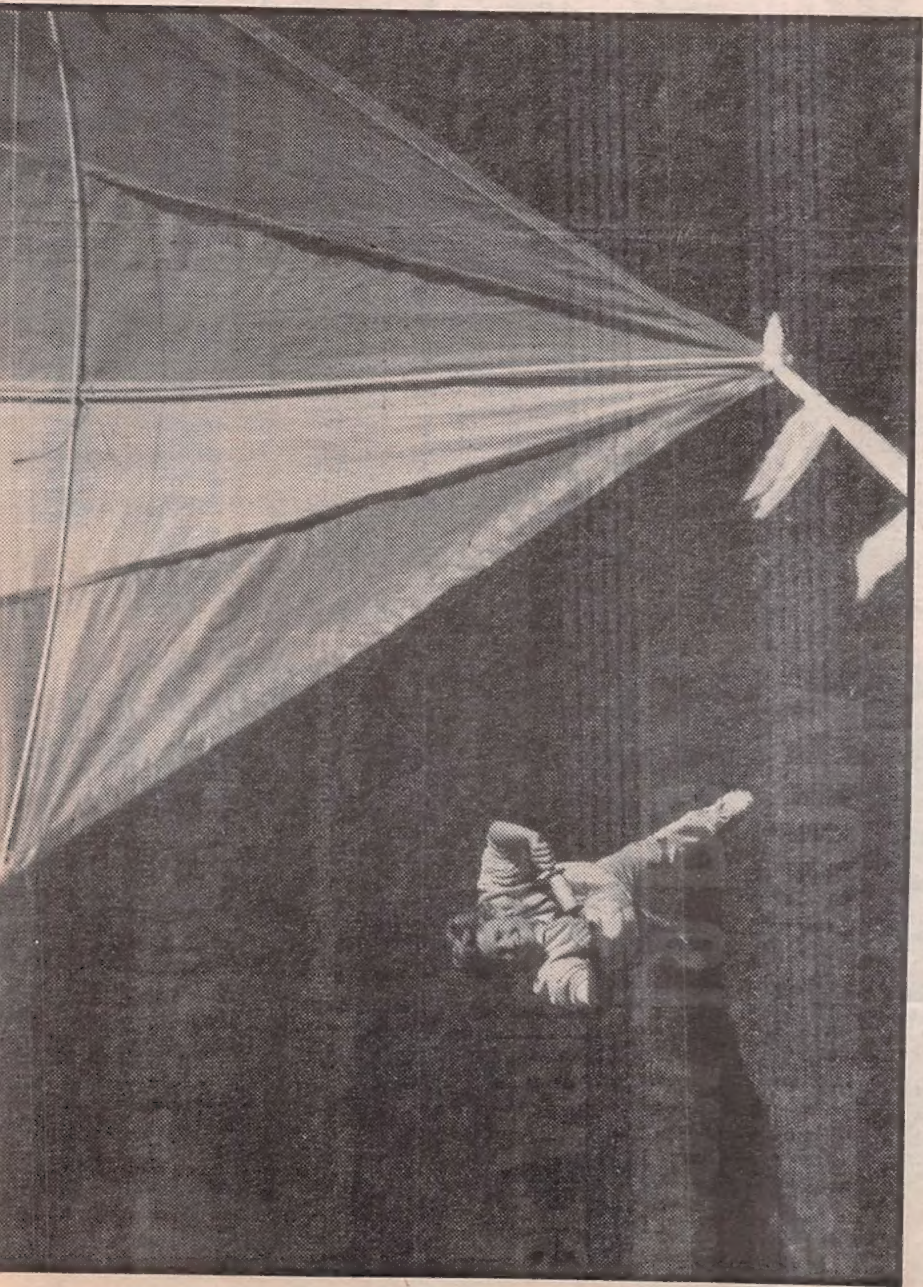
An emcee will explain the significance of the dances and music. An arena director will manage the events and also be in charge of security in the arena area.

Besides the competition, there will be exhibition dances and opportunities for non-Indians to participate.

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KUTV Channel 2 filmed Indian dancers, who will participate in this weekend's Heber Valley Powwow, for Thursday's "Backroads" segment of "PM Magazine." The producer, Christa Powell, said one of the purposes of "Backroads" is to help Utah communities promote economic development and that an unedited copy of the footage would be made available for use by the Heber Valley.



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Calendar of Events

June 2nd (Thursday) Heber Valley Pow Wow will begin Thursday, June 2: Camping Day; Friday: registration, 3 p.m. Grand Entry, 7 p.m.; Saturday: parade, 10 a.m., Grand Entry, 1 p.m. registration closes 5 p.m.; dinner break, 5 p.m. Grand Entry, 7 p.m. Sunday: Grand Entry 10 a.m. at the Wasatch County Fairgrounds.

June 2nd (Thursday) Wasatch High School graduation at 7:30 p.m. in the new gymnasium.

If your club or organization is planning an event and would like to place it on The Calendar of Events, please contact The Wasatch Wave office at 654-1471.

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Heber's first Grand Entry will begin at 7 p.m. Friday, June 3. There will be a parade on Saturday at 10 a.m. with local and Indian participants under the direction of the Heber Rotary Club. Grand Entries are also scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, and at 10 a.m. Sunday. The competition is expected to continue until about midnight both nights and until all the competitors have finished on Sunday.

Heber City, Coca-Cola Corporation, Wasatch County, the Utah State Division of Indian Affairs, the Salt Lake Indian Recovery Center, and Native American Citizens are sponsoring the Powwow. Local businesses and individuals have also contributed.

Admission is free, but spectators will have an opportunity to toss donations into a blanket carried by dancers, a traditional Indian fundraiser.



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The First Heber Valley Powwow

by Sonni Schwinn

The powwow being held in Heber City, June 3-5, is not the first powwow to come to town.

The Black Hawks had a powwow here sometime between 1926 and 1930, according to the memories of two Heber residents, Darrell Prescott and Bill Clift. Neither could remember very many details about the event, but their recollections are worth repeating.

Mr. Prescott said he was about 11 years old the year of the Black Hawk Days celebration. He said it was part of the county fair and that Black Hawks "came from all over."

Mr. Clift said, "They had quite a celebration, with a parade."

He said they camped and danced on the lawn by the old courthouse and jail and that "there were a lot of people."

"I remember that Indians used to come in from out in the Uintah Basin [to get supplies] and camp in

the backyard of our neighbors. That was Tom Jones, Dick Jones' dad. They ran sheep out in the basin," he said.

The Jones home was in the center of Heber City, near Center Street and Second East.

It's been 70 years since the people of the Heber Valley welcomed the Black Hawks for its first powwow. As a community, we welcome the Indians of all nations to the second Heber Valley Powwow and hope they will return every year, as it becomes an annual event.

Volunteers are needed to help in all the powwow activities. There will be a parade and all organizations, businesses, or individuals are invited to participate.

For more information or to volunteer, call Ken Davis, chairman of the powwow committee, 654-2590.

